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Empire Day

May 23rd, 1932

Canada was the first country to celebrate Empire Day, and the first celebrations of this kind took place in 1899 in the schools of Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

In the following year such celebrations became general throughout the Dominion of Canada.

In 1904 the Day was celebrated for the first time in the British Isles, and it is now observed in all parts of the world which are under the Union Jack.

Department of Education
Ontario

Greetings from The Minister of Education

While the regular Empire Day Booklet is not being issued this year, this folder contains a selected list of sources from which material for programmes may be obtained.

In view of the fact that the information usually found in these Booklets is not this year available, the Minister trusts that all teachers will make a special effort to insure that the programme for 1932 will be kept up to the high standard maintained in the past, and he feels confident that his hopes will be abundantly realized.

Empire Day is not to be regarded as a holiday. It is a day set apart for a very special and important purpose—that of emphasizing the greatness of our Empire and of instilling in the hearts of our young people the spirit of patriotism and love of country.

In these difficult times no more important service can be rendered by teachers, to Canada and to the Empire, than the endeavour to arouse this spirit in the impressionable minds of the pupils under their care, and to implant in their hearts the high resolve to do all in their power to keep their land, for the future, as it has been in the past:

"A land of settled government,
A land of just and old renown,
Where Freedom slowly broadens down
From precedent to precedent."

GEO. S. HENRY,
Minister of Education

Suggestions for Programmes

THE CHARACTER of the programme to be used in the observance of Empire Day is very definitely laid down in the General Regulations, Public and Separate Schools. The Regulation referred to reads as follows:

> "Empire Day, the last school day before the 24th of May, shall be duly celebrated in every school; the forenoon being devoted to a study of the greatness of the British Empire, and the afternoon to public addresses, recitations, music, etc., of a patriotic character."

Material for this programme may be obtained from patriotic selections in The Ontario Readers, from the Public School Geography, and from Empire Day Booklets of former years.

Additional material may also be found in such books as "The Canadian Flag-Day Book" (Longmans, Green, Toronto), and "Class-room Plays from Canadian History" (J. M. Dent & Sons, Toronto).

Little books containing suitable drills and exercises for this occasion are published by The Educational Publishing Company, 36 Shuter Street, Toronto; and teachers interested should write to this firm for catalogues.

"The New Educational Music Course" — Teachers' Edition, by A. T. Cringan (Canada Publishing Company, Toronto), contains many songs suitable for the occasion.

It is assumed that the public will be invited to these Empire Day exercises, and that representative persons in the community will be asked to give short addresses on the subject of the Empire.

God Save the King

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King,
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour;
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice
"God save the King."

Our loved Dominion bless
With peace and happiness
From shore to shore;
And let our Empire be
United, loyal, free,
True to herself and Thee
For evermore.